

References
"How Beautiful upon the Mts," pp 17, 25-26, 30, 33, 44-5, 109, 501-4, 529-531.

A. H.

JOHN W. WITT

J. M. T.

One of the major problems confronting the Wasatch County pioneers concerned their government. The Territorial Legislature had appointed John W. Witt "Probate Judge." Judge Witt set up a County Court to care for the civil needs of the people. He appointed Thomas Todd, James Duke and John H. Van Wagner as Selectmen.

Early in the settlement of the valley trouble, in the form of Indian raids began to worry settlers. By the Spring of 1856 nearly every able bodied man in the county was engaged in active military service.

The pioneer families considered it wise to locate in a central place. A fort was built in Heber township. A large corral was made in Cluff's Hollow where most of the cattle were guarded at night. During the day they were herded on the surrounding hills.

One of the first men to be appointed to active military duty was John Witt. His ability to direct men and operations was such that he was commissioned a Major in the Wasatch County Militia. Under his command were cavalrymen who scouted the mountains for signs of hostile Indians.

At first the valley was all one ward presided over by Joseph S. Murdock. John Witt was chosen as counselor to Mr. Murdock.

Evidences of the life and works of John Witt are all about us. The Witt name is known for good, for achievement and for strength throughout Wasatch County. To John Witt goes our thanks for his efforts to help build Wasatch County.

JOHN AND FANNIE JANE YOUNG CLYDE

Fannie Jane Young, daughter of Sarah and Jonathan Young, was born in Payson, Utah, on March 31, 1860. When she was two years of age the family moved to Provo, and resided there on the lake bottoms two more years. They endured many hardships and privations. They were so poor they had barely enough clothing to cover them and their food was indeed very poor and simple. Her father, being a seafaring man, knew nothing about tilling the soil, which was about the only means of making a living at that time.

In 1864 the family came to Heber. Their first home was in one end of the old log schoolhouse, located where Jessie Witt's house now stands. It consisted of one long room, in one end of which school was held and in the other end the family lived. They stayed here until another home was provided for them, which was a little one-room, dirt-roofed log house. It had a greased cloth on a small opening for a window. It stood on the southwest corner of the present courthouse lot.

The father took charge of the settlement cow herd as a means of livelihood. In 1865 he died, leaving his widow with four children ranging in age from four to 12 years to support. Fannie was the youngest. Times had been hard before, but now they became worse. The widow did any kind of work she could possibly find. During the harvest she hired out to bind wheat, and she made hats of braided straw, which she exchanged for such food as could be spared.

In 1866 she married Jonathan Clegg, and the family went to live on his homestead.

p532

The house stood on the present site of the ball grounds, or city park.

At the age of 12, Fannie went to stay at Brother Joseph Moulton's home as nurse girl. She lived with them one summer. At 13 years of age she went to Salt Lake City to work, where she lived with Sister Woodmansie as nurse girl. She stayed here about two months, but became so homesick she had to return to Heber. With her earnings she purchased a few articles of clothing and a small china doll, the first doll she had ever had.

The next spring, at the age of 14, she returned to Salt Lake City and worked at Lindsay's Gardens, a very high-class resort in the Twentieth Ward. From there she went to live in the home of Brigham Young's first wife, Mary Ann Angel Young, who was 82 years of age. She remained at this place almost a year. In the meantime her two brothers, Brigham and David Young, had taken a logging contract at the old sawmills where Park City now is. They wanted their sister to come and cook for them and some other men, which she did for some time.

After returning to Heber in the late fall, she met John Clyde, son of George and Jane McDonald Clyde. He was born at Springville, Utah, on November 25, 1854. The family moved to Heber in 1860. They lived in an old log house on the north side of town, near where the big red sandstone house built by them now stands.

His childhood and early manhood was spent working on his father's farm. Later he was employed in freighting goods to Fort Duchesne, in the Uintah Basin.

The young people were married on December 25, 1877. The following March they received their endowments in the old Endowment House in Salt Lake City. The next three and one-half years he was away from home, working and running cattle on the range, and they lived at the home of his parents.

These were the happiest years she had spent. She was treated as one of the family. They all worked hard, carding and spinning wool, making their own soap, starch, candles and also weaving cloth. Her first Christmas dress was made of this homespun material. Although they had much to do, they found time for parties and dances,

which she greatly enjoyed with her husband's brother and sisters.

During this time her first child, John D. Clyde, was born. John and Fannie and baby John next moved into their own home, the old rock house at Fifth North and Main St. Here the rest of her family were born: May, Maud, Angie, Edward, James T. and Afton. John had become a cattleman and was away most of the time, so that the responsibility of rearing the family was left almost entirely to grandmother.

When James T. was three months old, Fannie was taken ill with peritonitis (blood poisoning). Her aged mother was living with her at this time and cared for the baby during her illness. This illness lasted 14 months and during much of this time she hovered between life and death. As if to further test her strength and faith, two of her children died during her illness. James T., the baby, died when he was nine months old, of spinal meningitis, and Angie, a darling little seven-year-old girl, died of measles the following day.

Many a weaker person might have given up, but not Fannie, for when her physician, Dr. Lindsay, called on her one morning, he gave up hope and said she could not last until 6 o'clock that night. Instead of losing faith through her great sorrow and severe illness, she asked for the prayer circle to come and pray for her. They came, and placing her bed in the center of the room, knelt in a circle around it. Brother John Duke offered the prayer. He said afterward that a feeling he could not explain passed over his entire being and Fannie said she experienced the same sensation. During the prayer, Brother Duke promised her that she would get better. Soon after the poison in her was expelled by vomiting and she began steadily to gain strength.

In 1897, John and Fannie purchased the farm now owned by Albert Kohler in Midway and went there to live. This was the first time in their married life they had been together very much at one time. They lived here nearly two years when John was stricken with appendicitis and died on August 13, 1898.

Once again her faith was sorely tried, but she did not waver. Instead, she struggled to support her children and her aged mother,

—OVER—

